

Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CU-02 EB-03 L-01 SIL-01

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P 121350Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6238

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 0606

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, NU

SUBJECT: PROPOSED IAF GRANT TO CTN

1. EMBASSY AND USAID OFFICIALS WERE ADVISED TODAY BY RICHARDSON, INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION, THAT A PROPOSED PROJECT WITH THE CTN (CENTRAL DE TRABAJADORES NICARAGUENCES), A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC AFFILIATED LABOR ORGANIZATION, WAS SCHEDULED FOR SIGNING BY OFFICIALS OF THE CTN THIS AFTERNOON (FEBRUARY 11). UNFORTUNATELY, THE EMBASSY WAS INFORMED AFTER REPEAT AFTER THE CTN HAD BEEN ADVISED PREVIOUSLY THAT THE AGREEMENT WOULD BE SIGNED. WHILE COUNTRY TEAM HAD BEEN NOTIFIED BY LETTER THAT SUCH A PROJECT WAS UNDER STUDY, WE WERE NOT AWARE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN FINALIZED TO THE POINT OF SIGNATURE, AND LETTER ARRIVED JANUARY 28.

2. EMBASSY/USAID OFFICIALS NOTED THEIR CONCERN WITH THE PROJECT IN VIEW OF FOLLOWING POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: PROJECT, ACCORDING TO RICHARDSON, HAD NOT BEEN APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND A DEPARTMENT OFFICER HAD INDICATED RESERVATIONS CONCERNING THE PROJECT--RESERVATIONS WHICH HAD NOT BEEN RESOLVED AT THE EMBASSY OR DEPARTMENTAL LEVEL. THESE RESERVATIONS INCLUDE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE AIFLD PROGRAMS, POSSIBLE CONFLICT THEREWITH, AND THE NEGATIVE REACTION WHICH MIGHT DEVELOP WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA TOWARD
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LABOR PROGRAMS AS A RESULT OF THIS GRANT.

3. SUBSEQUENTLY, EMBASSY/USAID WAS ADVISED THAT FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT IAF, RICHARDSON WAS PROCEEDING TO SECURE THE SIGNATURE OF THE CTN TO THE GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE PROJECT WOULD NOT BE SIGNED BY IAF OR ACTIVATED UNTIL THE WHOLE PROJECT HAD BEEN REVIEWED ONCE AGAIN. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE PARTICIPATING IN FURTHER REVIEW OF THIS PROJECT IN VIEW OF ITS SENSITIVITY.
SHELTON

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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